

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AID-05 OPIC-03 /079 W

----- 069461

R 081732Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2728

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: PS COOPERATION WITH PCP: SOARES LAYS DOWN THE TERMS

SUMMARY: TOP SOCIALIST PARTY (PS) LEADERS HAVE LAID DOWN CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION WITH COMMUNISTS (PCP). SINCE TERMS REPRESENT DEMAND FOR WHOLESALERE PCP RETREAT FROM COMMANDING POLITICAL POSITIONS PARTY NOW HOLDS, THEY SHOULD BE READ AS PROJECTED PS BATTLE PLANS. PCP'S INITIAL REACTION HAS BEEN TO PROTEST AGAINST THREAT POSED TO CONTINUATION OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

1. TOP PS LEADERS FLANKED PARTY SECY-GENERAL MARIO SOARES AT MAY 7 PRESS CONFERENCE DURING WHICH HE COMMENTED ON MEANING OF ELECTION RETURNS, REVEALED PS PLANS FOR COOPERATION WITH OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, AND LAID DOWN PS

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TION WITH OTHER EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, AND LAID DOWN PS

CONDITIONS FOR WORKING WITH PCP.

2. WHAT ELECTIONS MEAN: PORTUGESE PEOPLE DID NOT JUST CHOOSE "SOCIALIST" OPTION, THEY CHOSE PS OPTION OF SOCIALISM IN LIBERTY AND PLURALISM. AS COUNTRY'S ONLY GENUINELY NATIONAL PARTY, PS HAS FUNDAMENTAL ROLE TO PLAY IN EFFECTING NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. WHILE PS PROGRAM GOALS COINCIDE WITH THOSE OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT (AFM), PS DOES NOT LAY CLAIM TO BEING AFM'S EXCLUSIVE ALLY.

3. PS TO COOPERATE WITH EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS: SOARES HAS INVITED FRENCH SOCIALIST LEADER MITTERAND TO DISCUSS SOCIALIST MODELS IN A WEEKEND CONVERSATION AT HOME, TOGETHER WITH SECY-GENS OF SPANISH, GREEK, AND ITALIAN SOCIALIST PARTIES, PS ALSO PLANS HOLD CONFERENCE IN JUNE OR JULY TO STUDY WHAT PORTUGESE SOCIALISM WILL BE. EUROPEAN SOCIALISTS, SWEDISH SOCIAL DEMOCRATS, TRADE UNION REPS, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF "SOME" COMMUNIST PARTIES (AS THE SPANISH) WILL BE INVITED.

4. CONDITION FOR PCP: PS IS INTERESTED IN JOINT PROGRAM WITH PCP AND IN REDUCTION OF EXISTING TENSIONS. PS LEADERS WENT PERSONALLY TO PCP HEADQUARTERS TO DISCUSS COOPERATION. BUT IF THERE IS TO BE PS-PCP UNITY, THERE MUST BE A FEW RULES TO THE GAME FOR BOTH PARTIES TO RESPECT AND FULFILL:

A. AN END TO PRESS MANIPULATION BY ONE PARTY -- A "FUNDAMENTAL CONDITION" WHICH INVOLVES SPECIFICALLY "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" (COUNTRY'S MAJOR NEWSPAPER, WHICH IS NOW "RENDERING WORST POSSIBLE SERVICE TO THE NATION"), RADIO CLUBE PORTUGES (PRIVATE STATION WHICH IS VIRTUAL MOUTHPIECE FOR PCP), TV, AND OFFICIAL NEWS AGENCY ANI. PS IS NOT DISPOSED TO LET CONTINUE SITUATION IN WHICH INFORMATION ORGANS, SUPPORTED FINANCIALLY BY STATE, ARE SUBJECTED TO ORGANIZED MANIPULATION.

B. LABOR UNION LEADERSHIP MUST BE REPRESENTATIVE OF MEMBERSHIP -- THERE WILL HAVE TO BE FREE ELECTIONS AND SECRET BALLOTS; INTERSINDICAL'S POLITICAL CONTROL BY PCP MUST END.

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C. ELIMINATE MDP/CDE'S DOMINANCE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES -- PS HAS LONG SAID THAT MDP WAS A PARTY WITHOUT A FOLLOWING, DOMINATED BY PCP, AND ELECTION RESULTS CONFIRMED THIS ANALYSIS. ACCORDINGLY, PS DOES NOT FIND IT "CORRECT" FOR MDP TO REMAIN IN CONTROL OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES. PS IMPRESSION IS THAT PORTUGESE WORKERS, IN LARGE MAJORITY NON-COMMUNIST, ARE NOT PRONE TO ACCEPT THIS SITUATION.

5. OTHER:

A. QUESTION OF UNITY OF ACTION CANNOT BE LIMITED TO PCP. SINCE PS IS NOT SPOKESMAN FOR PPD, AND SINCE THAT PARTY'S MILLION-AND-A-HALF VOTERS CANNOT ALL BE "BOURGEOIS," UNITY OF THE WORKERS' REPRESENTATIVES MUST INCLUDE PPD.

B. CONVERSELY, PS IS UNABLE TO WORK SIDE-BY-SIDE WITH (FELLOW TRAVELLING) FSP AND MES. PS RANK AND FILE WILL NOT ACCEPT SUCH COOPERATION WITH "MICRO-ORGANIZATIONS."

C. A GREAT PARTY LIKE THE PS CANNOT BE INTIMIDATED, AND NEITHER CAN ITS LEADERS.

6. PCP'S INITIAL REACTION: CENTRAL COMMITTEE ISSUED COMMUNIQUE MAY 8 REFERRING TO "SOCIAL DETERIORATION OF RECENT DAYS" LINKED TO ATTEMPT BY REACTIONARY FORCES TO DIVIDE AFM AND PARALYZE REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. COMMUNIQUE REFERRED TO DESIRE BY "CERTAIN SECTORS (READ SOCIALISTS) TO MAKE ELECTION RESULTS SERVE OWN INTERESTS, INTERPRETING THEM ABUSIVELY IN ORDER TO SLOW DOWN AND INTERRUPT REVOLUTIONARY PROCESS. IT WARNED WORKERS TO DEFEND THEIR UNIONS AND INTERSINDICAL AGAINST ATTACKS BY REACTIONARY FORCES AND DIVISIONISTS, WHILE CALLING ON POPULATION IN GENERAL TO DEFEND "DEMOCRATIC CONTROL" OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES.

7. COMMENT: PCP SECY GENERAL CUNHAL CORRECTLY NOTED IN WAKE OF PARTY'S POOR ELECTION SHOWING THAT PCP'S TRUE STRENGTH COULD NOT BE GAUGED BY VOTING RESULTS. PS CONDITIONS FOR COOPERATION CONSTITUTE DIRECT AND FRONTAL ATTACK ON PCP'S REAL POWER CENTERS IN COUNTRY -- LABOR UNIONS AND MASS MEDIA -- LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AMOUNT TO A CALL FOR PCP TO GIVE UP POLITICAL GHOST. PCP NOT ABOUT TO DO SO, BUT MAY PAY LIP SERVICE TO SOCIALIST CONDITIONS. OKUN

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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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